Expert Group on gender-related killing of women and girls
Bangkok, 11-13 November 2014
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Discussion on ways and means to more effectively prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killing of women and girls

Information on gender-related killing of women and girls provided by civil society organizations and academia

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* UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.8/2014/1.
I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 68/191, entitled “Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls”, the General Assembly encouraged civil society organizations and academia to share with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) relevant information concerning best practices and other relevant information related to the investigation and prosecution of gender-related killing of women and girls, in accordance with national legislation.

2. In November 2013, UNODC contacted relevant civil society organizations and academia requesting the above information. By October 2014, 30 submissions had been received from different civil society organizations, universities and independent researchers, including the following: ACUNS Vienna; African Women’s Organisation, Rita Banerji Founder, The 50 Million Missing Campaign; California State University-Fresno, USA; The City University of New York, USA; Claire McEvoy: Nairobi-based conflict and gender analyst; Italian Platform “30 years CEDAW — Work in progress”; IFRC/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; International Association of Prosecutors; International Council of Women; ISA/International Association; International Association of Prosecutors Justice for Iran; Gender and Health Research Unit, Medical Research Council, South Africa; National Council for Women in Saudi Arabia; RAHAT/Collaboration between Departments of Women and Child Development and Majlis Legal Center, Mumbai; Sana’s Fatima Research on Honour Killings, Soroptimist International; WFWP, Women’s Federation for World Peace; World Society for Victimology; RAUN/Regional Academy of the United Nations.

3. UNODC welcomes the contributions of the members of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in particular that of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), to the preparation of the present conference room paper, which provides a synthetic overview of the replies received and is structured on the basis of the main aspects on which information was provided. Not all replies contained information on all of these aspects and the substantive focus and level of detail varied considerably. The content of the present document reflects the information and views expressed in the replies, which do not necessarily coincide with the views of UNODC or Member States, nor does it imply any endorsement.

II. Definitions and contextual background

4. Despite the fact that Commission on the Status of Women, in its Agreed Conclusions adopted at its 57th session, and the General Assembly, in resolution 68/191, used the term “gender-related killing of women and girls” most replies referred to the term “femicide”. This is reflected in the present document.

5. The term “femicide” was publicly introduced by Diana Russell while testifying about murders of women at the International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women in Brussels in 1976. In 2001, Russell adapted her definition to “the killing of females by males because they are females.”

6. The criminal justice use of the terms “femicidio/feminicidio” with a gender-related meaning has been spreading throughout the Spanish speaking world...
since the last decade of XXI century, after the international exposure of the events in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, in particular with the contribution of Spanish women’s rights activists.¹

7. The first reference to femicide in official documents of the European Union was in the course of the hearing on feminicidio (killing of women) in Mexico and Guatemala at the European Parliament in April 2006. In October 2007 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the murder of women (feminicide) in Mexico and Central America and the role of the European Union in fighting the phenomenon.²

8. It was highlighted that femicides needed to be addressed in the specific contexts in which they occur, and not as isolated incidents. Attention needed to be paid to sociopolitical and economic dynamics, as well as overall patterns of gender-based violence, and how they affect the nature of femicide in a particular community, country, or region.

9. Femicide is the extreme manifestation of existing forms of violence against women. Gender-related killings are not isolated incidents which arise suddenly and unexpectedly, but are rather the ultimate act of violence which is experienced in a continuum of violence. Different forms of femicide include: Femicide as a result of domestic violence, intimate partner femicide, honour related femicide, including burn and acid attacks, dowry related femicide, organized crime related femicide, killings of women during war/armed conflict, female infanticide, FGM related femicide, killings due to accusation of witchcraft, sexual orientation related killings, femicide due to ethnic and indigenous community affiliation and killings of drug addicted abused women and prostitutes.³

III. Statistics and surveys

10. The Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women: Statistical Surveys⁴ were prepared to assist countries in assessing the scope, prevalence and incidence of violence against women. These Guidelines are responding to the need to provide methodological advice regarding selection of topics, sources of data, relevant statistical classifications, outputs, wording of questions and all other issues relevant for national statistical offices to conduct statistical surveys on violence against women.

11. Researchers and advocates made a number of recommendations for strengthening data on femicide. These can be summarized as follows:

   (a) National-level data, national registries, or dedicated sections on femicide are needed in existing homicide databases. Such registries should include collated

³ Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo, A/HRC/20/16.
data from a range of sources, including police, mortuaries, courts, medical examiners, and other services in a position to identify cases of femicide and the circumstances surrounding them. Ongoing surveillance using medical examiner databases, such as the New York City femicide database, and efforts to link homicide and medical examiner data as currently done by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are needed;

(b) Standardized guidelines and categories for identifying and documenting cases of femicide, including intimate-partner femicide, are needed. In addition, guidance for homogeneity in documenting victim-perpetrator relationships and information regarding history of violence or threats of violence in those relationships are needed. Specific attention needs to be given to what may or may not be feasible in resource-poor regions;

(c) Ongoing training is needed to strengthen the capacity of police, mortuary staff, social workers, medical examiners, and hospital and other health care personnel to identify and document cases of femicide and the circumstances surrounding them. In addition, sensitizing of journalists through awareness raising and training are needed to strengthen skills in gender-sensitive, complete reporting on femicides;

(d) Comprehensive, centralized reports on the incidence and consequences of femicide need to be developed, disseminated, and publicized for use in awareness-raising and advocacy surrounding the topic of femicide. This can only be accomplished in tandem with the overall strengthening of data collection;

(e) Quantitative and qualitative research methods, which improve the understanding of the social context, including the characteristics, dynamics, and circumstances surrounding femicides, need to be further developed. Gaps in research on specific forms of femicide need to be addressed.

Box 1

Good practice: Data collection in Finland on gender-motivated killings as a result of domestic violence

The Finnish police use nationwide data systems called RIKI and Patja to record the reported crimes. The report form contains both compulsory and optional information on the crime. Gender and other personal data such as the age and address of the suspect and the complainant are always recorded. The form contains a field where it is possible to define the crime or case as “domestic violence”.

Information on the relationship of the suspect to the victim is optional. Statistic Finland use police data combined with data from family statistics to produce statistics on domestic violence and all related crimes.

Statistical tables on causes of death make it also possible to know how many women are killed by domestic violence each year (number of intimate partner femicides). The source for these statistics is the death certificates made by medical authorities combined with data from the Population Register Centre. When the cause of death is not clear but an indicator of violence is present, the death certificate is not written until the preliminary result from police investigation on whether the case is a suicide, accident, or crime are available.
12. More research should be done on the relationship between firearms and femicide as well as on socio-economic and cultural risk factors, such as poverty, economic dependency of women, gender stereotypes and power imbalance between the perpetrator and victim.

IV. Role of civil society in promoting international and national laws — the Istanbul Convention

13. NGOs have committed themselves to the ratification of the Council of Europe convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), which can be acceded to by all countries. Civil society can also be influential in the passage of national legislation with effective provisions. Academic institutions and advocacy groups can provide draft laws or provisions.

14. The Istanbul Convention makes it clear that femicide and violence against women can no longer be considered as a private matters but that States have an obligation to prevent violence, protect victims and prosecute the perpetrators. By being more comprehensive in nature than any of the previously available instruments, the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention significantly reinforces action to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence at global level through the “4 Ps approach”: (a) Prevention, (b) Protection and support, (c) Prosecution and (d) integrated Policies.

15. The application of measures to protect the rights of victims shall be secured without discrimination on any ground. No individual who has suffered gender-based violence should be excluded from the protection and support set out in the Istanbul Convention. This includes women and girls from any background, regardless of their age, race, religion, social origin, migrant status, gender identity or sexual orientation.

16. The Istanbul Convention also provides for a monitoring mechanism to ensure the implementation of the Convention and guarantees its long-term effectiveness. The group of experts (GREVIO) will not only monitor implementation, but also make recommendations to countries, thus offering advice and support. NGOs believe that national monitoring mechanisms should also be established with civil society participation.

17. The Istanbul Convention was also seen as being fully aligned with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and based on the premise that violence against women cannot be eradicated without investing in gender equality and that in turn only gender equality and a change in attitudes can prevent such violence from happening. This meant that signing and ratifying and ultimately implementing the Convention would also contribute to the implementation of the “women’s rights bill”. The CEDAW provides for civil society organizations to offer observations on the implementation of recommendation.

18. It was also highlighted that, in order to fulfil their international obligations to protect basic human rights, States agreed to take appropriate measures, including improvement, enactment and enforcement of legislation. In order to gradually
change social and cultural attitudes of people towards gender equity and women’s human rights, strong political will was needed to set an example for socially acceptable behaviour, whilst punishing the violation of law without any exceptions. In this connection civil society has a strong role to play to reinforce political will.

V. Prevention measures and strategies

19. The prevention of violence against women requires far-reaching changes in the attitudes of the public, overcoming gender stereotypes and most importantly raising awareness. In this connection civil society organizations, religious institutions, schools and families play the most important roles. Effective prevention measures against femicide can be found in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women of 1993. In addition, to the criminalization of violence against women, the following measures were highlighted by contributors to this paper:

   (a) **Raising awareness of the general public.** There was a need to engage the public through the media and to encourage civil society initiatives that expose all forms of violence against women to fight impunity;

   (b) **Special measures for the education of girls.** Girl child education is a fundamental means to prevent violence against women and femicide. Education of girls up to the tertiary level is considered an urgent priority;

   (c) **Affirmative action in appointing women.** It was considered necessary to advocate for the appointment of senior police as well as women in prosecutorial functions, also at national levels, in order to ensure physical security and safety of women and girls. The appointment of women in senior government and political functions would also help counter the perceived inferiority of women. Leadership at all levels was needed.

20. In many cities women and girls face violence not only in their homes and in relationships, but also in public spaces due to poor urban design and poor management of public spaces. The Women’s Safety Audit is a tool that enables a critical evaluation of the urban environment. Women and girls define the dangers that they feel in public urban spaces. This initiative was first developed in Canada following the recommendations of the 1989 report on violence against women and has further been developed by UN-HABITAT in the cities of Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban, Dar es Salaam, Abidjan, Nairobi and Warsaw. Listening to women can lead to improved design, planning and management of public spaces in order to reduce the feelings of insecurity and actual victimization.

21. It is emphasized that femicide and violence against women must be addressed at the family, societal, governmental and international level if we are to expect any reduction. Resources and assistance from the international community and national budgets, particularly with regard to hiring and training police officers, design improvements, such as lighting and protective and safe shelters will be necessary to bring about major qualitative improvements.

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5 General Assembly Resolution 48/104.
6 ACUNS, “A global issue that demands action”, 2013.
22. A number of good practices were identified with regard to effective prevention measures and strategies, including: (a) focusing on the local level, (b) engaging government support, (c) involving professionals and key stakeholders, (d) supporting civil society organizations (e) researching women’s security, (f) creating collaborative community structures, (f) ensuring representation of the community, especially for the most vulnerable groups/members, (h) establishing intersectoral teams and clarifying responsibilities, (i) promoting confidence-building efforts and education initiatives, (j) setting realistic goals, and (k) timing for change.

23. In order to tackle burn and acid attacks, the following recommendations have been made: (a) adopt a criminological perspective in developing preventive measures, (b) develop safe designs for delivering and storing kerosene for domestic purposes, (c) promote awareness among women and girls about the consequences of self-inflicted burns, (d) publicize the need for effective policy response including legislation, education and advocacy, (e) implement risk-assessment tools for treatment.7

24. Crime prevention interventions aimed at tackling femicide should be designed according to the type of femicide these seek to address, since different sets of circumstances allow for a particular type of intervening mechanisms.8 Interventions for intimate partner femicide have a greater success rate if they are invoked at the earlier stages of abuse and violence.9

25. Femicide can only be effectively prevented if a holistic approach is adopted by the States, in tandem with relevant stakeholders and NGOs. It must also include a nationally coordinated strategy in respect with training around the substantive and procedural issues relating to Femicide targeting all the relevant actors who are needed for the effective implementation of legislation.10

26. Contributors to this paper strongly encouraged the sustainability and enhancement of domestic violence services for women, which should be a priority for policy makers. Women who are repeatedly subject to violence should be considered as a high-risk group of femicide. Greater economic independence may increase options for leaving abusive relationships. Data on intimate partner homicide should also be disaggregated.11

27. Intimate partner violence and gun ownership are strongly associated with femicide in the home. 60 per cent of Italian femicide cases involved guns. Health care, law enforcement, the judiciary, and service and advocacy professionals have opportunities to intervene to prevent intimate partner femicide and attempted femicide. If a women confides that she is planning to leave a controlling abuser, it is important to warn her not to tell her partner that she is leaving him face-to-face.12

7 Natarajan, Mangai: “Understanding and Preventing Burn and Acid Attacks on Women”, the City University of New York, 2014.
9 Ibid.
10 Amien, Waheeda: Legal Aid Clinic, University of the Western Cap.
12 Violence Against Women and Attempted Femicide: A Case Study by Nancy Glass (Oregon Health and Science University) Jane Koziol-McLain (Auckland University of Technology)
28. Governments should launch awareness raising initiatives and make the goal to stop violence against women an issue of national priority. A recent example of a successful information campaign targeting all citizens concerns the digitization of television in India, which broadcast the message every 15-30 minutes on all media networks. Such awareness campaigns should directly inform and warn the public that killing daughters, forcing women to abort female foetuses, dowry extortion and murders, “honour” killings and “witch” lynching are crimes and of the penalties they entail under law. As of now, the public is simply urged to be “nice” or “kind” to girls and women by referring to them as mothers or goddess that bring wealth.\textsuperscript{13}

29. In order to prevent or reduce the number of femicides, it is imperative that the root causes are addressed. The issues of racism, discrimination, economic inequity, inadequate employment and educational opportunities and poverty in particular ethnic communities should be given social and political priority.\textsuperscript{14}

VI. Protection

30. Civil society plays a major role in the protection of women and girls at risk. Shelters are provided and mostly run by local NGOs. Committed volunteers are available at all hours day and night to provide safety to women and children who are in danger of their lives. These facilities should be adequately funded and equipped to offer a secure and comfortable environment. Due to the nature of women associations, endangered women are often better able to relate their fears and threats and ask for the most appropriate assistance including psychological and practical support. Civil society organizations are also best placed to accompany victims through the courts procedures and to seek appropriate remedies and also compensation. If the woman has been killed, similar victim support services need to be provided to other members of her family.

31. Often battered women like the idea of a health-care professional notifying the police for them. It is important to consider the role of medical professionals might play in identifying women at high risk of intimate partner femicide.

32. It is important that cadre of workers be trained in this culture-sensitive and innovative approaches in order to combat femicide. This training should be also be supplemented by providing training to police officials, prosecutors, judges, and other public officials who may come into contact with potential or actual femicide cases in order to rise their awareness to this issue on the one hand, and develop and improve their humane and professional skills in dealing with such cases on the other hand.\textsuperscript{15}

33. The criminal justice system often seems to be failing to safeguard the legal and human rights of the victim. Unless a new political, social and legal order is

\textsuperscript{13} Strategies to tackle femicides in India, Rita Banerji, November 2012.


\textsuperscript{15} Shalhoub-Kevorkin, Nadrea: “Mapping and analyzing the landscape of Femicide in Palestinian Society”, Women’s Center for legal aid and counseling, 2014.
constructed to help society find alternate methods of dealing with such a crime, women will continue to be killed and held responsible for their own abuse and deaths. Policymakers and legislatures have an exceptional opportunity to reconstruct the legal system in a manner that will not dehumanize femicide and place the blame on the victim.16

34. Many Governments have consistently left provision of most necessary services — shelter, legal aid, and affordable, quality medical services — to donor- or privately funded NGOs and medical providers with limited funding. This situation must come to an end. Moreover, services have largely targeted one-off survivors of violence after the fact, neglecting those who are chronically abused within marriages and relationships and those who have long histories of abuse.17

VII. Investigation and prosecution

35. Civil society can persuade States to introduce a number of new offences where these are not presently recognized as such by the law. These may include: psychological and physical violence, sexual violence and rape, stalking, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, burning, forced abortion and forced sterilisation. In addition, civil society including religious institutions and media need to ensure that culture, tradition or so-called “honour” killings are not regarded as a justification for any of the above listed offences.

36. Once these new offences have found their way into the national legal systems, there is no reason not to prosecute offenders. In this connection, civil society organizations can influence States to introduce legislation and take a range of measures to ensure the effective investigation of any allegation of violence against women. This means that law enforcement agencies will have to respond to calls for help, collect evidence and assess the risk of further violence to adequately protect the victim.

37. Furthermore, civil society can monitor judicial proceedings so that the rights of victims at all stages of the proceedings are respected and secondary victimisation is avoided. NGOs can help ensuring that a variety of civil law remedies are applied, which allow victims to seek justice and compensation, primarily against the perpetrator, but also in relation to state authorities if they have failed in their duty to diligently take preventive and protective measures. The right to claim compensation for damages suffered should be guaranteed by law.

38. Recommendations concerning investigations and prosecutions of femicide can also be found in the Model Protocol (Panama Protocol) for the investigation of femicide in Latin America. Once there is awareness of a violent crime such as the killing of a woman, State authorities should be obliged to start ex officio without delay, a serious, impartial and effective investigation by all legal means available, which is focused on the determination of the truth, and the pursuit, capture, prosecution and eventual punishment of the perpetrators, especially when State agents are involved.

16 Ibid.
39. Concerning the quality of the criminal investigation, the duty of conducting an exhaustive investigation, effective, serious and impartial of crimes, was reiterated by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights: “An investigation must have an objective and be assumed by the State as its own legal duty, not as a step taken by private interests that depends upon the initiative of the victim or his family or upon their offer of proof, without an effective search for the truth by the government”.18 All members of the public who witness femicide or other acts of violence should cooperate with the investigation.

40. The investigation must be comprehensive, this implies that (a) the victims are supported during the investigation process and (b) the investigation must exhaust all legal means available and focus on the determination of the truth, capture, prosecution and eventual punishment of those responsible. In addition, investigators should determine whether the women or girl was killed because of her gender, or due to accidental death, suicide or natural death.

41. It is also important to identify whether the attack was motivated by race or minority status and to carry it out with vigour and impartiality. The patterns in unsolved femicide cases often are due to insufficiency in the investigations.

42. The obligation of investigating femicide requires professional staff capable of identifying the different factors surrounding gender-motivated killings. Supportive technical personnel and forensic equipment are also required.

Box 2

Best Practice: Sweden — Manual on violence against women for patrol officer and detectives and guidelines for prosecutors

Sweden has a manual for patrol officers and detectives on how to prevent, detect and investigate men’s violence against women, as well as guidelines for prosecutors to improve preliminary investigations and also to ensure professional and efficient support to victims from the first point of contact with law enforcement and throughout the entire legal proceedings. These guidelines include special information about dealing with honour-based crimes.

43. A number of Member States now entrust intervention to specialized units in the police and/or prosecution service. Specialized courts meant to handle cases of domestic violence or gender-based violence have also been established in a number of countries. Prescribing and empowering multi-agency cooperation is another important aspect of promising practice. In the Netherlands, (“Safe Houses”) create a structure that facilitates multiagency cooperation (police, prosecutors, municipality, support workers and child protection). The idea is that much violent crime, including intimate partner violence or child abuse, is complex and multifaceted, hence it needs to be combated in a multidisciplinary manner. In this light, the involvement of NGOs should be supported.

44. Often there is a perceived lack of political will to tackle femicide and violence against women among the leadership of the police. Once a crime is recorded at a police station, the police are obliged to follow up on the case. In practice, however,

they may not bother, may solicit a bribe, send a survivor home to reconcile with the accused. Police also push women to pursue traditional dispute mechanisms, involving a chief, elder, or family member to adjudicate a case informally. Where police officers are overwhelmed by all types of crime and deal with poor living and working conditions, they often view violent acts against women as petty or minor offences.19

45. The benefits of employing women in policing have been recognized and advocated in many countries. NGOs suggest that hiring procedures be changed in favour of women being hired, taking into account their other capacities and previous non-police experience. To affect the police organization as a whole, it is important for women applicants to be able to apply for and hold officer ranks beginning with lieutenant or its equivalent. This will ultimately allow them to affect policy and influence the organizational climate from the top-down and to change the male oriented command model to a more egalitarian system where men and women are equal.

46. Different types of femicide occur under particular sets of circumstances. Hence, various intervening factors arise, which place obstacles in the effectiveness of the criminal justice system. In the case of intimate partner femicide, the presence of children, loyalty and reluctance to file a complaint often contribute to the ineffectiveness of the criminal justice response. Battered women who have cooperated with the police and prosecutors up to the point of sentencing often change their minds and prefer their partner treated rather than imprisoned.20

47. In order to improve the quality of the investigation,21 multisectoral research should be conducted on most effective methods to fight femicide from efficient response teams as well as practical measures, such as emergency mobile apps (emergency signal boxes).

Box 3
Good practice: Access to the police via the internet in Chile

Many national police forces have a web presence. Information on recruitment, crime prevention, telephone contacts and locations of police stations, and even video-based announcements, are common. Beyond this basic information, many agencies also have links to special areas and topics and permit e-mail contact. Of interest are the websites of the Carabineros de Chile and the Policia de Investigaciones de Chile. Their websites provide the public with access to various organizational departments, agency reports, hiring requirements, crime prevention information, and to the organization’s magazine. There is also additional information that can be accessed after registering and obtaining a user name and password.

VIII. Victim and family support services and compensation

48. The horrific act of stranger femicide affects primarily the loved ones of victims who may suffer for the rest of their entire lives. Victims of violence and femicide should be eligible for compensation either from the perpetrator or the State. Survivors and families must have access to comprehensive services that ensure a prompt response from police and access to the justice system, shelters, legal aid, health care, psycho-social counselling, 24-hour hotlines and long-term support. Children of femicide victims deserve special assistance for their well-being and social integration (e.g. in their schools) until they are adults and protection from further victimisation from the perpetrator as well discrimination from society.

49. Beyond medical care, practical assistance should be provided to the family of victims, including grief counselling, mental health treatment, funeral costs and crime scene clean-up (if in the home), travel costs to receive treatment, moving expenses, social services and the costs of house-keeping and child-care if the victim family is unable to perform these tasks.

IX. Recommendations

50. Civil society includes a variety of actors, such as relatives of femicide victims, human rights activists, women’s rights defenders, journalists, religious communities, etc. support groups as well as women’s organizations and NGOs working on community, national, regional and international levels. The role of civil society has been essential in the defence of women’s rights, offering legal advice to victims of violence, running campaigns to change existing legislation, denouncing systematic and structural femicide and violence against women in both public and private spheres, as well as exposing government failure to fulfil commitments. Good cooperation between civil society and governmental bodies is essential to successfully prevent and address femicide and violence against women in general.

51. The following contributions and strategies by the civil society should be encouraged to eradicate femicide worldwide and used as a set of practical recommendations:

(a) Promote legal reform (penal codes and special laws against femicide);

(b) Encourage the establishment of specialized police and prosecution units to investigate and prosecute femicide or attempted murder of women and girls and provide sensitization trainings;

(c) Participate in the design and implementation of national plans against femicide;

(d) Assure adequate protection of vulnerable groups, such as migrant women, Roma women, disabled and elderly women as well women of minority groups;

(e) Introduce consideration of the violence issue in indigenous and certain ethnic communities;

(f) Demand access to justice for victims both during peace and war;
(g) Encourage cooperation between lawyers, health professionals and NGOs in giving support to victims with regard to their rights, services to be provided and participation in legal processes;

(h) Monitor the States to guarantee the fulfilment of their responsibilities and due diligence in order to protect the lives of women and girls;

(i) Establish, support and operate services, networks and institutions for preventing femicide and protecting women, such as shelters, hotlines and other facilities of protection;

(j) Place the issue of femicide and violence against women on public agendas related to citizen security and secure sufficient funding of programmes and initiatives;

(k) Carry out prevention activities with specific at risk groups;

(l) Encourage Women Safety Audits and help to create a safer urban environment (i.e. improve lighting, avoid underpass, more frequent police controls, etc.);

(m) Launch mass campaigns to raise awareness and disseminate information;

(n) Sensitize the media and provide training for journalists to report in a respectful and objective manner;

(o) Follow up evaluations of the implementation of the laws and inspections of police practices are needed at regular intervals;

(p) Press for reliable data-keeping and sharing;

(q) Ensure the effectiveness of crime scene investigation, chain of custody controls, good training and coordination of police, investigators, prosecutors and judicial authorities to respond more quickly and effectively to crimes against women, prevent contamination of valuable evidence;

(r) Urge for compensation of victims and their families as well as provide psychological assistance, social services, housing as well as employment support;

(s) Press for disciplinary measures of sanctions to be imposed against officials who fail to carry their responsibilities and prosecution as required by law, or who themselves engage in acts constituting femicide/violence against women;

(t) Urge States to bring national law into compliance with international standards on discrimination and violence against women;

(u) Urge Member States to adapt crime victim compensation and legislation to provide for victims and their families.
Annex

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Nadera Shalhoub Kevorkian “Femicide (honour killing) and the Palestinian Criminal Justice System: Seeds of Change in the Context of State Building?”, 2011

Rae Taylor and Jana L Jasinski “Femicide and Feminist Perspective”. Homicide Studies

Nadera Shalhoub-Kervorkian and Suhad Daher-Nashif: “Femicide and Colonization” (Palestine)


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Nancy Glass, Jane Koziol-McClain, Jacquelyn Campbell, Carolyn Rebecca Black “Female-Perpetrated Femicide and Attempted Femicide” VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (Afro-Americans in the US)

Lisa R. Muftic and Miranda L Bauman “Female Versus Male Perpetrated Femicide” Journal of Interpersonal Violence

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